

11-27-1995

## The Semi (11-27-1995)

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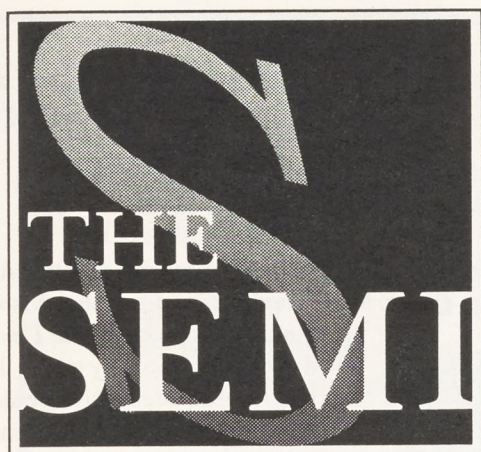
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A Publication for the Fuller Theological Seminary Community

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# CHRISTMAS

## in THE

# HOOD



*by Jude Tiersma-Watson  
Instructor in Urban Mission,  
School of World Mission*

Some years ago, while walking from Kathmandu to a neighboring Nepali village, my companions and I took shelter during a monsoon rain. The only protection we could find was home to the local buffalo and oxen. Already the air was steamy and heavy with the earthy smell of dung.



*Jude  
with  
husband  
John*

It took some time of standing uncomfortably, trying to avoid swishing tails, before I realized with a start: I was in a stable. A cow shed. Like the one where Jesus was born. I hadn't recognized it from the Christmas cards. There was nothing romantic about this cow shed.

What that stable told me—and the Christmas-card versions forgot to tell—was that it was into a forgotten corner of a disordered, messy

world that Jesus was born. The holy, incarnate, Son of God.

Living now "in the 'hood" in a forgotten corner near downtown L.A., I reflect back to that story and draw courage and hope from remembering: it was into a forgotten corner of our

broken and messy world that Jesus was born. As I walk the streets this time of year, I imagine how the Christmas narrative might look today in my city, Los Angeles. For just as Nathaniel said of Jesus' home, "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" many ask, "Can any good come from Los Angeles?"

So I wonder: How would Mary and Joseph have arrived—by Greyhound? Where would Jesus be born—in a welfare hotel? At a homeless shelter? At County General Hospital? To whom would the angels have appeared—to security guards keeping watch over their buildings? To homeless warming themselves over a trash-can fire? Who would be the wise men? And what of the slaughter of all those male babies that followed the visit of the Magi?

Here, too, we can draw courage and hope, for the evil and suffering in our cities that we attempt to ignore, or that threatens to overwhelm us, is present already in the birth narrative. They are not beyond the story of God's inbreaking into our shattered world; they are part of the story. That violent tragedy involving innocent children, although horrific, did not stop God's purposes.

Jesus said to the disciples, "As the Father sent me, so send I you." Are we willing to be sent, as the Father sent Jesus, as lambs among the wolves in our messy, broken world?

**S**



She had bright blue eyes and fluffy, honey-colored hair that shone like gold. She was surrounded by a cloud of aquamarine chiffon. As I stood gazing in awe at her, behind me my little brother crowed, "Barbara, it's your doll!"

Tears gathered in my eyes, and I blinked hard to keep them from falling, "No, Billy, it's not mine; it's Aunt Ramona's." I turned, pulling him out of the room with me; I could not bear to look at her one minute more.

She was the doll I wanted. I had been coveting her for months. Each week my family went to buy groceries, and while my mother and father would push the cart up and down the aisles, I would stand in the frozen food section looking above the cases at the boxes of fashion dolls. She was the *only* thing I wanted for Christmas. But my father had been out of work all through the autumn; money was very scarce. I was old enough to know that Christmas would be very simple that year—Santa would not be coming to our house. I wanted to be glad for our young auntie, but I was empty inside because my doll had come to her instead of me. Nothing was coming my way.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.  
Let all mortal flesh keep silent.

The first Advent during which I visited the monastery, I was disappointed that there were no ritual flourishes of purple cloths, no forest greens, no brilliant poinsettias bedecking the simple, wooden stable-turned-chapel. The guest lounge was bare and quiet and dim. No tree, no lights, not even a manger scene. I felt vaguely betrayed. I longed for some sign that Christmas was on its way. I had grown to appreciate the monks' ability to create a celebrative mood with the simple beauties of nature at festival times, so I was surprised by their "forgetfulness." I had grown used to the decorations and preparations

before Christmas coexisting with the sense of expectancy of Advent. But in the monastery, nothing was coming our way.

Ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here.  
And with fear and trembling stand.

The Orthodox priest outlined the practices of Advent: Fasting. Prayer. Alms giving. My Orthodox friend and supervisor sat drinking his broth, while I enjoyed a variety of holiday treats. It was still Advent, even while we sat at our holiday office party. I wondered what it would be like to give away (as he was) what had come to me.

O come, thou dayspring, come.  
He will give to all the faithful his  
own self for heavenly food.

I needed to lose twenty-five pounds so that I could begin my child's life in good health. The medically-supervised program began with a week-long fast. I had endured without for the full week, and I sat before my first meal of solid food: one half chicken breast without skin, broiled; one half baked potato, plain; and one half cup broccoli, steamed. I breathed the scent

of "real" food, and eyed the textures of crusty and squishy and rippled objects on the shimmering plate. I prayed thank you, and lifted the filled fork to my lips. The salt-sweet taste of flesh mingled with the fall-apart fluff feel of potato. What glorious satisfaction of desire filled my mouth, caressed my tongue, tickled my nose. What delight had come to me?

O come, Desire of nations.  
That the powers of hell may vanish . . .

Awakened early, as on every childish Christmas, and wandered broken-heartedly to the living room. My

Continued on page 3

## Anticipation:

### What is Advent anyway?

by Barbara L. Eurich-Rascoe



Managing Editor: Carmen Valdes  
Director OSS: Ruth Vuong

The SEMI is published as a service to the Fuller community by the Office of Student Services, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California 91182. For more information, contact the SEMI office at (818) 584-5430.

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Editor: Laura K. Simmons  
Production Editor: Jin H. Cho

In-house users will be charged for notices from their departments which exceed 50 words in length. Notices from individuals or churches for events not directly sponsored by a Fuller office or organization will be printed in the "Ads" section and charged per word. Articles and commentaries do not necessarily reflect the views of Fuller administration. Final editorial responsibility rests with the Director of Student Services.



## Of Deity and Bones

by Nancy Thomas

"Does God have bones?"  
David asked me that today, Lord,  
and I couldn't answer him.  
Well—do you?  
Have bones I mean.  
His question was serious, you know.  
He wants to know who and how you are.  
And where, too.  
And if you're like us.  
I don't always know.

Bones?  
You did have bones once, didn't you?  
Bones and muscles and fingernails  
that collected dirt, feet that tired  
from miles on dusty roads  
and hands that bloodied  
from driven nails.  
You became like us, didn't you?

Thank you for reminding me.  
Now I know the answer.

Tomorrow I'll tell David again  
that old old story  
that even a child can understand.  
About a God who filled his lungs  
with earth air, tasted bread,  
listened to cricket song at night,  
held other four-year-olds  
on his lap and personally  
answered their questions.  
About a God who loves so much  
he put on bones  
and more, much more.

Tomorrow I'll tell him.



Nancy Thomas  
is a Ph.D. student and more,  
much more in the School of  
World Mission. This poem  
is reprinted here with the  
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## CHAPEL news

### All-Seminary Chapel

This **Wednesday**, November 29,  
our guest speaker is **Dr. Jeff Bjorck**,  
Assistant Professor of Psychology.  
We gather for the Wednesday Chapel  
at 10 am at the First Congregational  
Church. There will be a brief time of  
fellowship following Chapel.

On **Thursday**, November 30, **Dr.  
David Scholer**, Professor of New Tes-  
tament, will be sharing a message af-  
ter a time of praise and worship. The  
Thursday All-Seminary Chapel meets  
in Travis Auditorium at 10 am.



### Anticipation - cont'd from page 2

brother followed close at my heels, while my parents stayed in bed.  
"Barbara, look!" my brother squealed and pointed. I blinked back  
tears of joy and disbelief: She had bright blue eyes and fluffy, honey-  
colored hair and sat in a cloud of aquamarine chiffon *under my tree*.  
The one thing I knew I could never have had come to me. She sat on  
my bed every day for the next twenty years—a priceless treasure from  
impoverished earthly parents.

Death's dark shadows put to flight.  
*Ponder nothing earthly-minded.*

The wisdom of giving away and going without, in preparation  
for the coming of All Plenitude, is beginning to make sense to me.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.



**S**  
Barbara Eurich-Rascoe is  
the Director of the Office  
of Women's Concerns.



## "Listening to the Music in the Midst of the Storm"

"all the money in the world, all the power it can buy  
will not take your voice away,  
cannot own what you hold inside"

-Sam Phillips

I remember my initial response to these lyrics. There is a great deal of truth in this statement. Replacing "money" with "evil," or "strife," or "sorrow" ushers you into deeper levels of this truth.

"The Shawshank Redemption" brilliantly portrays this concept. Early on in his unjust incarceration for his wife's murder, the central figure, Andy Dufresne, is issued a work assignment in the library at Shawshank Prison. During this time he uncovers a treasure trove of classical music recordings. Having endured years of humiliating and dehumanizing treatment by both guards and fellow inmates, Andy seizes the opportunity to experience a piece of joy in this concrete hell which has become his home.

Not only does he partake of the fullness of this musical feast, but he decides that the **entire prison** needs to join in with him! He transmits the cascading orchestrations over the penitentiary loudspeakers, bringing everyone within the walls to a standstill. All are awestruck (except for most of the prison staff, especially the warden!) by the ominous beauty which crashes into their gray existence. Meanwhile, Andy reclines in his chair, headphones fixed securely to his head, basking in the transcendence of the moment.

Needless to say the prison officials weren't too pleased with his actions. Andy received several weeks of solitary confinement for his "transgression." Following his release from solitary confinement, his fellow inmates ask him why he did such a seemingly foolish act. Andy passionately testifies to the truth Sam Phillips touched on in the above lyrics: There is a deeper part to one's soul, a part which can remain unscathed amidst extreme adversity. Even in the bowels of the gray, lifeless existence of Shawshank Prison, Andy firmly believes that there is a core to his person which will survive all the horror which is thrown his way.

This scene struck a chord within me. I was reminded of Romans 8:38,39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." That is the truth to which I believe Sam Phillips directs us.

The older I get, the deeper I grow in my understanding of the reality and steadfastness of God's love and presence in my life. It is a lesson I have "learned" countless times before and I am confident that I will "learn" it again. As one who ✦

## Office of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

seeks to walk in faithfulness to Jesus in my journey I find renewed assurance in both Sam's lyrics and "The Shawshank Redemption." God has used these as parables which speak deeply to my soul. Though a storm may rage around me, there exists a quiet, peaceful core of truth—that the living, breathing, creative God of the universe lives within me and loves me.

Elias Gonzalez

Assistant Director of Admissions  
SOT Student

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ **Common Lunch Time** - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15-1:00
- ❖ **Making Space for God** - Tuesdays at Ten (10:00- 10:40) in the Catalyst.
- ❖ **Orthodox Morning Prayer** - 7:30am-7:55am, Mon.-Fri. in chapel above Library

#### ✦ Lenten Devotional

For those of you who desire to experience a deeper sense of community here at Fuller and would like to play a role in seeing that happen, help us out by writing a devotion for us! Depending on the amount of interest, we will be putting together another devotional book this year, trying to bring in more of the Fuller community. What better way is there to get to know the students here, as well as get to know God through other's experiences?! There will be more information posted and distributed on how to get involved!

#### ✦ Cooperative Housing

Do you long for Christian friendships to become deeper and experience being part of a "family" in the body of Christ? Then you would love to hear more about **ALLELOUS** (meaning "one another" in Greek)!!! A couple of months ago, Fuller opened up one of its housing complexes to those interested in having their own separate complex, yet being in a more intentional community atmosphere. You and your neighbors will decide on the activities, meals, and devotional times to be shared. Everyone in the Fuller Community is welcome and we currently have several apartments open and students looking for roommates. Call for more information!!!

The Office of Christian Community may be reached at (818) 584-5322, or FTS Box 243, and is located on the second floor of the Catalyst building.





A Word from the  
Psychological Center

## The Doctor is IN

by Mary Beth Freeman  
Administrative Director,  
Fuller Psychological and  
Family Services

### "Being at home with the holidays"

#### *Have you ever had a stressful Thanksgiving or Christmas?*

If you answered 'yes,' then consider yourself to be in the company of the majority of us! The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are certainly meant to be times to celebrate and to spend time with friends and family. However, all too often there are pressures, stress, and tension that also surround the holidays, and these get in the way of our being able to experience the joy holidays can bring. We at the Psychological Center would like to offer a few thoughts we hope will help you create a less stress-filled and more relaxing holiday season this year.

**First, acknowledge that your holiday has the potential to be stressful.** This will enable you to be proactive as you plan, rather than be caught off guard and not be able to enjoy your celebration because your expectations and plans turn out differently than you'd hoped.

**Second, begin thinking now** about how and with whom you'd like to spend the holidays, especially if you know you may not be with those you have usually celebrated with in the past. One of the things that can make the holidays stressful and disappointing is to feel that you are alone and not part of a community. You'd be surprised by how many people don't have anyone to be with OR how many would love to have others join their celebrations. It's important just to start talking with folks. You could even host your own celebration event and invite others who may be in similar situations to yours.

**Third, be sure to talk about the expectations and wishes** of those who will be celebrating with you. This will enable you to try to include something for everyone as you plan. This hopefully will not only decrease disappointment for family and

friends, but will also decrease your own stress if you feel the pressure to plan everything yourself.

**Fourth, plan ahead.** Often, events become overly stressful because we have too many things to do at the last minute. It isn't too early to start thinking about what you want to include in your Christmas letter, what kinds of goodies you will bake, whom you want to celebrate with...you could even start jotting down things you'll want to take with you if you plan to travel over the holidays. If you're able to, you may even want to prepare a fun survey to send to, or have a pre-holiday party with, those you'll be spending the holidays with to find out what kinds of things they want to do, eat, etc.

**Fifth, you can be creative and plan events** to turn many of your holiday preparations into fun celebrations. For example, plan baking parties to make some of those Christmas goodies early and then freeze them. Or, you could get together with some friends who like to make Christmas gifts and have a 'holiday gift-making party.'

We hope these thoughts will get the creative juices flowing for you as you begin now to prepare for the upcoming celebrations of giving thanks and celebrating our Lord's birth. Peace to each of you.

(For additional suggestions, Fuller Psychological and Family Services has prepared and will distribute a two-page handout on this topic).



## MEETINGS DENOMINATIONAL

The following denominations will be meeting on Monday mornings at 10:00 am, with exceptions where noted. This time is set aside for you for worship, for support, to network, and to connect with denominational issues.

**American Baptist**  
Psych Bldg. 116

**Armenian Students**  
(Monday Evening 6 - 7 pm)  
Library 203

**Assemblies of God**  
Psych Bldg. 311

**Episcopal Church**  
(Thursday Lunch)  
Garth

**Friends**  
Stephan Hall 207

**Lutherans**  
Library 203

**Messianic Jews**  
Glasser Hall - Second floor

**Post-Denominational  
and Foursquare**  
Psych Bldg. 314

**Presbyterian Church (USA)**  
Travis Auditorium

**Reformed Church in Am./CRC**  
Psych Bldg. 120

**Roman Catholic**  
Library 205

**Seventh Day Adventist**  
Library 204

**United Methodist Church**  
Psych Bldg. 130

**Vineyard**  
Payton 302

Note: If your denomination is not meeting at this time and you are interested in starting a group, and/or connecting with others of your denomination, please come by the Office of Denominational Relations, located 2nd floor of Carnell Hall (behind the Catalyst) or call 584-5387.



## Congratulations to Dr. Russell Spittler!

Congratulations to Dr. Russell Spittler, who has been appointed to the Office of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Mouw, in announcing the appointment, said "I am deeply grateful for Russ's willingness to step into this important leadership position." Watch for a SEMI interview with Dr. Spittler at the beginning of Winter quarter!

### OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE SEMI

Due to budget constraints, the SEMI policy for Office Announcements will change beginning in Winter quarter.

- *Announcements of over 50 words will not be printed.* (If your announcements tend to be longer, we suggest you either buy display space or print a phone # in your announcement so people can contact you for more information.)
- We will run office announcements free for *no longer than two weeks*. If you want your announcement to repeat more than that, you will be asked to pay \$.15 per word at the time the announcement is submitted.

### SWM INTENSIVES

School of World Mission would like to announce the following four-unit, five-day intensives, all meeting **from December 11 through 15**: • **MC550: The Ministry of Healing in World Evangelization** - w/ C. Peter Wagner; • **ML560 Change Dynamics** - w/ J. Robert Clinton; • **MT522 Mission of the Local Congregation** - w/ Charles Van Engen. See your advisor for more details!

### FREE BIBLE

Tyndale House Publishers is offering a free copy of *The One Year Living Bible* to all students and faculty. If you are interested, drop by or call the Office of Student Services at 584-5435 to sign up. You will be notified via your campus mail when your copy arrives. This offer is good through December 30.

### OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION UPCOMING EVENTS:

- "Brainwashing and Religion" with H. Newton Malony 1/17-19
- Child Abuse Seminars 2/23, 5/10
- Ministry Liability Workshops 1/12, 2/2, 3/8, 4/12, 5/17
- "Enjoying the Gift of Sex," by Cliff and Joyce Penner, 1/12
- House Church Seminars: Orange County 1/20, Pasadena 2/24
- Palm Desert Lectureship 3/14
- Payton Lectures with Jürgen Moltmann: 4/19 - 20

Please call the Office of Continuing Education for more information: 584-5339 or 5338.

### LOW-FEE INDIVIDUAL THERAPY

Offered by the School of Psychology, beginning February, 1996. The psychotherapy is appropriate for those experiencing anxiety, depression, relationship difficulty, life-changing adjustments and personal growth. Fifteen sessions provided for \$50.00. Therapists are students enrolled in Ph.D. or Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology. For further information, call 584-5555.

### PLAY BY FULLER STUDENT

James Putney (M.A., SOT) wrote a play about his life for Young Lee Hertig's Multicultural Care and Counseling class last year. With encouragement from his classmates, he has refined the play, and it will be presented (with original music and dance) at the Oceanview Community Church on Sunday, December 3. See the SEMI office or Arts Concerns bulletin board for more details.

### EPWORTH CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

In an effort to provide quality child care for Fuller families, Fuller partners with Epworth Christian Preschool, an educational ministry of First United Methodist, 500 E. Colorado Blvd. Epworth has a year-round program for 18 months - 5 year olds. There are Fuller spouses on staff, hands-on curriculum, and reasonable rates for FTS students. Subsidy for qualified families is available. Come and join other Fuller families. For more info, call Cherry at 586-9502.

### OVERCOMING SHYNESS

Do you hesitate to participate in class or talk in a group? Come be a part of a new group, being offered by FPFS, called "Overcoming Shyness." This 10-week group will help you learn specific strategies for overcoming the insecurities and self-doubt that may hold you back in social and professional situations. This group will be held in a safe and confidential environment. For further information, contact FPFS at 818-584-5555 and ask for Teresita.

### ON CAMPUS INTERVIEW

Rev. Phil Mark from United Church of Christ - Hawaii Conference will be on campus on December 11th to interview for *full-time positions* and *year-long internships*. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby of Carnell Hall. If you have questions please call Eva Peters at 584-5576.

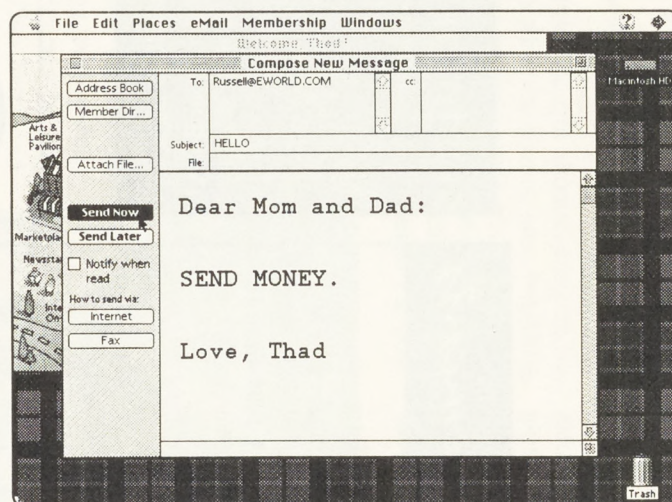
### FREE CHILD CARE

January enrollment is now on at Epworth Christian Preschool, 500 E. Colorado Blvd. Epworth is accepting 18 mths - 5 year olds. If you enroll for January, you will get 8 free hours (\$24 value) of extended care. If you enroll another family, you will receive an additional 8 hours of free (\$48 value) extended care. Tuition assistance is available for Fuller students who qualify by income at Office of Student Services, 584-5435 or call Cherry at Epworth for more info about their program—568-9502.

More FYI on the back cover...



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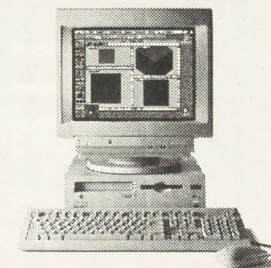
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This section of the SEMI is for the announcement of events or services not directly offered by a Fuller office or organization. For information about rates, contact the Office of Student Services at 584-5430. Note: Each person is responsible for checking on the quality and type of service before contracting or using it. The SEMI and Office of Student Services do not personally recommend or guarantee any of the services listed.

**For Rent: Vacation Get-Away** at the Harmony House. 4 bedroom retreat center (sleeps 10-12) in beautiful Lake Arrowhead. \$295/weekends, \$650/week. Call Dr. Janet Harms 909-394-9990 (Fuller choir director) for brochure and reservations.

**Healthy research subjects needed** for a study on how children pay attention. Families will be paid \$40.00 for two testing sessions with each child, both being conducted at Fuller Graduate School of Psychology. During the first session the child will have his or her brain waves monitored (a simple EEG) while performing two "computer games." The second session involves testing verbal and memory skills. No medical procedure involved. Ages 7 to 16 only. Call Stacy Amano 818-952-1437 or Kathleen Thompson 818-585-1751 for more information.

**Rose City Cleaners:** 115 N. Lake Ave. 818-577-1438. 20% Discount (Dry cleaning) to all Fuller Seminary students and staff.

**Christians need cars too!** SIDCO Auto Brokers serves Christian Colleges, Missions, Staff/Students/Alumni. This is our 9th year serving the Christian community. Fuller Hotline 909-949-2778 or 1-800-429-KARS.

**Need Extra Cash?** Sell film at the Rose Parade on January 1 and earn up to \$150.00. Call George Spitzer at 818-796-5024 or Dave Ekstrand at 818-303-7179

**Getting Engaged?** Or just want a reliable jeweler? Many Fuller students have come to us and it has been a privilege to help them. We do not sell to the general public. Walter Zimmer Co., wholesale manufacturing jewelers with 78 years' experience. Call 213-622-4510 for hours, days open and directions. Ask for Mel or Ken Zimmer. (Mel is a member of Glendale Presbyterian Church and is active in the healing ministry.)

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**Editorial Services:** Professional editing for dissertations, theses, articles, books. Reasonable rates. References provided. Dr. Denise Blue, Blue Pages, 818-441-5106

## More Announcements

### ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Come and participate in this ecumenical event and make your Christmas gift help under-privileged people around the world. Sunday, December 3, 1995, from 12 noon to 3 pm at the First Christian Church, 789 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena.

### UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

"College Days" at Universal Studios from Oct. 1 - Nov. 30. Get into Universal Studios for a reduced rate: \$19.20 per person (adults and children). Pick up your coupon, which is good for up to 6 people, at OSS (2nd floor of the Catalyst building) and have a wonderful time!

### ANOTHER FULLER BABY!

Congratulations to Troy and Margie Fa-Kaji (SWM student) on the birth of their daughter Midori Fa-Kaji. Weighing 7 lb. 1 oz., Midori was born Sunday, November 5, at 2:33 pm. She has two older sisters, Naomi and Noelle.

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